

## CYNGOR TREF MAESTEG

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## MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL

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10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

### **MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

It has come to the attention of Maesteg Town Council that a lot of misinformation is circulating on social media regarding Maesteg Town Councillors.

Recently there has been the following on social media:

#### **1. IRP Allowances**

IRP = Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011 Act, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by 30<sup>th</sup> September following the end of the previous financial year. This information should also be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales by the same date. Nil returns are also required.

This is a statutory requirement for all Town & Community Councils.

Maesteg Town Council have published the following years on the website <https://maestegcouncil.org/financial-responsibilities/>

- [Members Expenses 2017 – 2018](#)
- [Members Expenses 2018 – 2019](#)
- [Members Expenses 2019 – 2020](#)
- [Members Expenses 2020 - 2021](#)

The Members Expenses for 2021 – 2022 will be published in September 2022.

For the full IRP report please use the following link; <https://maestegcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Independent-Remuneration-Panel-for-Wales-Annual-Report-2021.pdf>

## **2. Members Attendance Figures**

It was agreed in [Full Council 13/04/2021](#) Minute 466 that Member's attendance figures would be published on the website at the end of the Mayoral Year in line with how BCBC publish their data with the first year of attendance being the 2021-22 year (AGM 2021 – last meeting before AGM 2022)

Recently a member requested the councils attendance figures and these were shared with all members electronically and these have been placed onto social media without permission of full council.

The figures state attendance and absence but the reasons for absence are not included only whether or not apologies were given.

A number of Councillors have been ill in 2021-22 with general illness / Covid-19 / hospital stays and other instances whereby they may have been on holiday or had technical difficulties in logging onto the online meetings.

The information on social media is out of context and can be perceived as misleading. If any member of the public wish to query the figures it is advised that they contact the Clerk of the Town Council for information under a Freedom of Information request.

## **3. Financial Mismanagement**

There is currently an ongoing SW Police investigation regarding this issue. Unfortunately, Maesteg Town Council and its Members are unable to comment on this due to the ongoing SW Police investigation.

Strict measures have been put in place to prevent any financial errors from occurring and these can be found in the Finance Committee minutes listed on the website within Meetings and Minutes in both 2020-21 and 2021-22 tabs.